

are doing things that will encourage them when we give them free education, free healthcare and to pay for them to do those things.

□ 1745

So, Madam Speaker, tonight we want to speak specifically about this thing that is called inflation. Inflation is related to Federal monetary and fiscal policy. Inflation is that thing that occurs in the economy when the price of goods and services rise and rise exponentially.

Normally, an administration would look at about a 2 percent growth, a 2 percent inflation rate, which would be, generally speaking, an acceptable growth for a GDP model as well as inflation rate.

This administration, however, began with President Biden going down and visiting the king of inflation, former President Jimmy Carter, talking to this Nation about how great Jimmy Carter's service was. Well what he really meant to say was I admired his policies, progressive liberal policies that took this country to have 16 and 18 percent interest rates, interest rates that raised prices an excessive amount of money for families for a generation that could not buy homes.

Madam Speaker, the Republican Party is here speaking, just as the American people are, and we recognize that this administration has made dear and great friends with the conditions that create inflationary spiral.

This administration knows exactly—they have smart people there, but it is their policies that they demand to have, and those policies bring about results that end up making friends with inflation: Higher prices for goods and services; more government spending. This is big expensive government spending across the board.

And so the American people will have the most expensive Thanksgiving in years; the highest inflation rate in 30 years. Oh, that would be back to Jimmy Carter. No wonder President Biden visited his favorite—or second favorite President, Jimmy Carter, because he wants to make friends with the conditions that create inflation: Big government spending, prices rising, government control of the goods and services.

And just like Jimmy Carter, he had a Senate, a House, and a Presidency to be very successful.

Madam Speaker, the American people spoke again last night in local elections down in South Carolina. They spoke a week ago in State elections.

Madam Speaker, the American people deserve better. Better comes from policy, and better comes from adults who will recognize that it is not just politics, it is about the American people who want and need to have more take-home pay and more ability to take care of themselves; not big, expensive socialist government that even breaks the laws of this country.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his service to this con-

ference but, more importantly, for making sure that the American people hear the other side of the story.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, that was so well said, and the American people are going to speak again next fall; we know that for certain.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Jackson County Deputy Lena Marshall, whose picture is displayed beside me right here.

Last week, Jackson County lost a mother and a heroic law enforcement officer. After responding to a domestic call that spiraled into a violent shootout, Deputy Marshall tragically lost her life while serving to keep Georgians in our community safe.

While I never had the privilege of meeting Deputy Marshall personally, I am deeply moved by her immeasurable sacrifice and willingness to put Georgians' safety above her own.

As a resident of Jackson County myself, I believe I can speak for all of us in the county in saying that we are forever thankful for Deputy Marshall's dedication, her service, and her bravery.

My wife, Jennifer, and I continue to pray for Lena's family and for her fellow Jackson County officers during this difficult time.

May God bless our men and women in blue who selflessly put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight as we talk about this issue with our upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, expected, of course, to be the most expensive meal in the history of that holiday.

This is more proof that the Democrats are driving up inflation with their spending policies. Spending piles of dollars does not create an economy, it actually hurts the value of the dollars.

USDA's Turkey Market News Report showed the price of turkey itself is going to be up 22 percent from last year. Pumpkin pie, potatoes, cranberries, all up in price.

Inflation, of course, is the most regressive of actual taxes on the people because it hits those on a fixed income the hardest. Low and middle-income have tough decisions to make on whether it is going to be—how they are going to handle their food costs and upcoming heating oil and gas to stay warm this winter.

Democrats have been touting that they will tax billionaires and the rich and corporations but, instead, we have seen them advocating for policies that lead to inflation, directly harming those low and middle-income Americans, as well as making tax breaks for the rich while they are touting them.

Congress cannot spend its way out of a problem, as some in the administration have suggested. It would only make the issue worse.

We must stop passing massive spending bills and, instead, work on the burdensome regulations and get out of businesses way so they can thrive, expand their businesses, and hire employees.

Indeed, we need to work on the important supply chain issues that are still clogging our ports, keeping our products from being exported, from agriculture, all those things that need to be shipped out. Instead, we aren't cutting very good deals with China when they can just send their stuff over to us.

So that would insulate our economy from inflation by having a real economy at home that is not dependent upon borrowed dollars for big spending.

Indeed, I keep asking, Biden administration, whose side are you on?

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 5 seconds remaining.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friends for participating tonight, and I yield back the balance of my time.

PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, Monday was such an exciting day for our country. President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law, and we came one step closer toward making the necessary investments to help our communities thrive; to help them thrive, not just survive.

And I want to point out that, although it is called the bipartisan infrastructure act, we had very few Republicans in this House vote for that bill. In my State, the Republican Congresswoman did not vote for the infrastructure act; so she voted against the clean water. She voted against the broadband. She voted against the infrastructure that we need to keep our roads safe and our bridges strong enough so that kids can cross them in their school buses to get to school.

But the Democrats delivered that bill, and the Democrats are going to deliver the Build Back Better agenda.

And the reason why we need to pass the Build Back Better Act, it is para la gente. It is for the people. It is for our communities.

Just a few weeks ago, my Progressive Caucus colleagues and I held a Special Order hour dedicated to the many great things in the Build Back Better Act. But, there is so much in there that is good that we are back here tonight to continue to highlight the benefits for our communities.

Madam Speaker, throughout the pandemic, New Mexicans lost their livelihoods. They put savings toward just surviving. If it wouldn't have been for the American Rescue Plan, they would have lost their homes. The eviction moratorium helped them.

Housing—I want to talk a little bit about housing because that is something I have worked on for many, many years in my district. We know that housing instability and the shortage of affordable housing hurts our working families.

Many saw their dreams of home ownership vanish with the pandemic and the recession. But, with Build Back Better, we have an opportunity to change that. We know that the biggest barrier to purchasing a home is the lack of savings needed for a downpayment. People just don't have \$10,000 or \$20,000 to put down on a downpayment.

And current benefits like mortgage deductions don't help low-income families looking to buy a home. They don't help middle-class families, because you need the money at the time you are buying the house, at closing.

So, to successfully address the affordable housing shortage and the growing racial gap that comes along with it, we need to make sure there is access to home ownership, especially for communities like in New Mexico, or Native American, Latino, African American, Black, Indigenous communities, we need to make sure that we provide them with the homeownership assistance when it is needed, which is at closing.

And you know what? Build Back Better does just that. It makes one of the largest investments in housing downpayment assistance in history.

I am proud to have been one of those many in our caucus who advocated for the \$10 billion that is in Build Back Better to help first-generation homeowners purchase their home.

In my beautiful New Mexico, we are lucky to have an organization that I have worked with for 20 years. It is called Homewise, an organization that helps create successful homeowners so that families can improve their long-term financial wealth. We have financial fitness classes. We also help people with downpayment assistance. But we could use more of that. We never have enough downpayment assistance.

But one of the people that we helped was Maria Luisa. Maria Luisa first came to the United States from Mexico. She had a dream to own a home of her own and to create that better life

for herself. She found that dream hard. She found herself living on the streets of Santa Fe, but she turned her life around. She got her GED. She got her residency, her green card. She took classes at the Santa Fe Community College in community health, and she found Homewise, and she found her first home with our help.

She says that being a homeowner lifts her spirits and gives her confidence in her own future. She knows that she will be able to pass along the savings that are incorporated into that home of her own to her children.

Spirit and confidence in the future, that is what Democrats are about. We are about opportunity. We are about creating that belief in the future and making it possible for working families.

I am glad to be on the floor with my progressive colleagues to talk about the many opportunities that Build Back Better has.

But I want to take a little moment right now and have us walk back a year. Thanksgiving. Do we remember what Thanksgiving was like a year ago?

In my household, we always have a sit-down dinner for about 24 people. You know, we believe in those extended tables. And everybody comes. Somebody will make the turkey, somebody else will make the green chili and the red chili, because you can't do without red chili and green chili if you are from New Mexico. And everybody brings what they made with such love to the table, and we sit around together and share stories and share good food and laugh and tease.

Last year, did we do that? No. Last year, we had a Zoom Thanksgiving. Last year, we were living in despair. We were living with our former President, who made fun of COVID. We were living with politicians from the other side of the aisle who called it a hoax. And we could not gather. We could not celebrate.

What a difference a year makes. What a difference leadership makes. Under President Biden and the American Rescue Plan, we have made it possible for our families to gather together once again because we made sure that they didn't get kicked out of their homes; that they had a place to invite their family too with the money that we put into rental assistance.

We made sure that they could get that vaccination; that they could have those shots. And anybody who wants it in the United States can get a shot, can be vaccinated, can get their booster, so that they protect everybody in their community. And that is what we need to celebrate, and that is what we need to respect because a year later, the American Rescue Plan has done so much for our communities.

□ 1800

But, yes, it is true. As those on the other side of the aisle state, we are seeing inflation. But gas prices, who con-

trols gas prices? Oil and gas companies do. Who protects oil and gas companies? Republicans protect oil and gas companies.

They protect those corporations. They do not let us attack their corporations or tax those corporations. So Democrats have to do it themselves.

We need to remember that it is greedy corporations that are raising the prices and profiting off of working families.

We need to remember that it is Grubhub that is increasing the price of deliveries by 30 percent, and none of that is going back to the mom-and-pop restaurants. It is going to those corporations that don't want to pay taxes.

But in the Build Back Better Act, we are going to make sure that corporations pay their fair share so they can stop fueling the inflation that the Republicans protect. They are fueling the inflation, and Republicans are protecting those corporations. Let's call it like it is.

But right now, I want to go back to all the amazing things that are in the Build Back Better Act. I am going to call on our wonderful Representative WATSON COLEMAN, my colleague, who always stands ready to tell the stories of what it means on the ground in our community, for our people, from visions like Build Back Better.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN).

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, first of all, I thank Representative LEGER FERNANDEZ for managing this very important Special Order hour. I want to tell her and you, Madam Speaker, that I have been totally inspired by my colleague's comments thus far on the benefits of the Build Back Better Act, on helping us to remember and to reimagine.

I remember Thanksgiving as well. I come from a big family, and there are about 30 of us that get together. It didn't happen last year. But because of this leadership out of this administration, the Democratic Caucus in this House and in the Senate, we were able to deliver resources so that people could get the things that they need to stay in their homes and get vaccinated.

I, for one, am happy to say that my whole family is vaccinated, and we also have the booster, so we are going to get together for this Thanksgiving dinner. I am grateful to the visionary President, Joe Biden, for this.

I am here tonight to speak about something that I am passionate about. I want you to know, Madam Speaker, that I am rising today because I feel that the way our country has treated working people has just been unacceptable.

Billionaires pay a smaller share of their wealth in Federal taxes than the middle-class and the working-class people who built this country.

Our system is antithetical to our country's founding principles, and, yes, it is broken. Our country has failed its

people, and we must do better. We can't do better, though, without building back better.

Although the current bill does not include all that we had hoped it would, it is still going to transform the lives of those who need it most.

For example, it will give working parents the freedom to raise their newborn children and make a living. That is why Build Back Better extends the already extremely successful child tax credit expansion Democrats first passed in the American Rescue Plan earlier this year.

It also incorporates my Healthy MOM Act to ensure new mothers have 12 months of postpartum healthcare coverage so they are supported when they need it most.

It will also make an unprecedented investment in putting floors beneath our feet and roofs above our heads. The Build Back Better Act includes \$65 billion for safer, more accessible public housing. It also invests an additional \$25 billion to construct and rehabilitate low-income family housing and another \$9 billion for lead remediation to safeguard our children's health.

This bill also puts us back on the right path to prepare against the threat of climate change. It makes a historic \$29 billion investment in greenhouse gas reduction and \$3 billion for climate justice block grants. It will also ban new offshore oil and gas leasing along our coasts to create a cleaner, brighter future where all of our children can thrive.

Right now, the American Dream is just that, a dream, for far too many people. Building back better is a crucial step toward making that dream a reality.

Since our Nation's founding, working Americans have paid more than their fair share. It is time we finally reward them.

Today's Build Back Better Act is not the bill we had in mind when the President first announced his agenda, but we are still on the verge of making the biggest investment in working American families in more than half a century.

I am very proud of that. We all ought to be very proud of that. We ought to be proud that we can work hard. We stood together; we fought together; and together, we can make it happen.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, New Jersey is so lucky to have Representative WATSON COLEMAN because she knows what is needed on the ground.

Yes, indeed, it is together, and that is what I like about our Caucus and what we are doing. We are doing it together. We are not about division. We are about unity.

That is what we represent, right? Because we know that community working together, living together, and growing together is how we succeed in life.

I want to raise another part of where Build Back Better is very important. I am chair of the Indigenous Peoples

Subcommittee. I am so lucky to have the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the Navajo Nation, and 16 different Puebloan Tribes in my district. They tell me about their needs. I have walked in their villages. I have sat at their feast days.

I know the pandemic hit them hardest of all. We saw the death and despair in our Tribal communities. So what we did in Congress, what we did in the Natural Resources Committee, was to make sure that their voices were heard. We provided \$14 billion in the American Rescue Plan and another \$12 billion for their communities.

We have been hearing lately about the incredible, sad stories that come from the fact that there was a time in America's history when we took children away from their Tribes, away from their culture, and we put them in boarding schools, and many died. We were trying to erase the savage Indian, and those were the words that were used. It didn't work. The Tribes are alive and with us. We must respect that history.

I am proud that both the American Rescue Plan and the Build Back Better Act have \$200 million for Native American languages because it is through language that you preserve a culture and that you preserve an identity.

Add that together with the fact that we are going to have \$470 million for Tribal climate resilience because we have moved Tribes from their homelands and put them in places where they are at the greatest risk from the climate crisis. We include money for drought relief because they are at the greatest risk of thirst because of the droughts that will be caused.

We have \$2.3 billion for the Indian Health Service. This will help us address the backlog. 1993 is when we started setting out the list of Indian Health Service buildings that needed repair, and we still have a 1993 list that we have not met.

I am very proud of what we have done in Build Back Better to address the needs of our Native Americans and our urban Native Americans in our Tribes.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY), my colleague in the Congressional Progressive Caucus, a gentlewoman but fierce and proud.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I thank my dear and fierce colleague from New Mexico for convening us this evening.

Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the communities in my district and across our Nation who for too long have been asked to wait, for those who have had their justice delayed, time and again, by inaction, obstruction, or the status quo.

I rise today because I support the worker and their family, caregivers and childcare workers, parents and essential frontline workers, our disabled siblings, our environmental justice communities, and our immigrant neighbors.

For months, we held the line to ensure that we leave no family, no worker, and no community behind. I rise so that we can secure the strongest policies and investments for our most marginalized communities, to deliver meaningful, tangible change to improve their conditions and to impact their daily lives.

This week, the House has the opportunity and the obligation to legislate justice and begin rebuilding as a stronger, more just Nation that takes care of its people, not because it is good politics—I will let the pundits speak to that—but because as lawmakers we have a decisive mandate from the people to deliver policies and budgets that value the lives and livelihoods of everyone in our communities. That means passing the President's full agenda, which is the people's agenda.

I represent Massachusetts' Seventh District, one of the most unequal districts in the country and in the Commonwealth, where in a 3-mile radius, life expectancy drops from 92 years in Back Bay to 59 years in Roxbury, and the median household income drops by \$50,000; where childcare costs remain some of the highest in the entire Nation, \$21,000 a child for center-based care; where the rising rates of asthma, extreme heat, and sea level rise disproportionately impact frontline environmental justice communities like Chinatown, East Boston, and Chelsea.

The hurt and harm in my community run deep, and I see it every day. These inequities and disparities are not naturally occurring. They are the direct result of decades of precise and intentional policy violence and underinvestment that has been codified into our laws and our budgets for generations.

In this moment, as we do the work to build back better and do so equitably, we must be just as precise and just as intentional in legislating and investing in justice, equity, and healing. That is why we can't afford to leave any worker, any family, or any community behind.

Madam Speaker, the Build Back Better Act is our chance to chart a new path forward and reverse the generations of policy violence inflicted on our most vulnerable, to finally make universal paid leave a reality for the millions of workers, disproportionately Black and Brown women, who have been pushed out of the workforce, left to make the impossible choice between keeping food on the table or caring for themselves or a sick loved one; for the childcare worker taking care of our babies but can't make enough to take care of their own; to finally invest in home- and community-based services for the elderly and disabled as the critical infrastructure that it is; to finally make affordable childcare and universal pre-K a reality; to combat climate change; to close the homeownership gap; to rebuild our crumbling housing stock; and finally to honor our promises to our immigrant neighbors.

These investments are possible; they are popular; and they are necessary.

We can wait no more. There is no deficit of resources in this country, only a deficit of empathy and political courage.

We must pass the Build Back Better Act this week and make the long-overdue investments that our workers, families, and communities have been denied for too long.

Our Nation is in crisis. The urgency could not be more clear. How we meet this moment will have lasting impacts, and history will remember us for it.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I think this reference to how history will judge us is important because we are facing a historical moment right now. The decisions we make on the floor of this House this week will determine whether our future is one that is inclusive and that includes every single family and community in this great Union of the United States or whether it continues to leave people behind.

Right now, those who are being left behind include the vast majority of Americans. What we are doing with this legislation is creating the kind of opportunity, creating the kind of jobs so that everybody can come forward and thrive.

□ 1815

We are focusing on women. This is a women's agenda. The Build Back Better Act is a women's agenda because it is the women who had to drop out of the workforce to care for their children because there wasn't enough childcare available or it was too expensive.

In New Mexico, we just learned that almost 21 percent of the women in New Mexico dropped out of the workforce because they could not afford childcare.

Build Back Better addresses that. It is going to make sure that no family pays more than 7 percent of their income on childcare. That is the kind of agenda that every family wants, because they want to make sure that their children are cared for and are either in a great childcare center or are in that pre-K that is so essential so that they can succeed later in life.

We know that the science has shown us that if you have quality pre-K for your 3-year-olds, for your 4-year-olds, you are going to have a successful life, you are going to earn more in income, you are going to graduate from high school, you are going to earn additional degrees. It is going to be better.

So we are taking the investments today and we will recoup the benefits 12 years from now, 18 years from now. And that is believing in our future. We are investing in what we believe in.

I also want to take a moment to address the fact that this bill is fully paid for, so when anybody ever says that it is going to increase our deficit, know ye that it is not true what they say because this bill is fully paid for.

It is paid for by making sure that tax cheats don't get to cheat anymore. We are going to invest in the IRS so that

they can audit and go after tax cheats. Who wants to defend tax cheats? Do you really want to be defending tax cheats? I hope not because everybody should pay their fair share.

We are going to make sure that nobody earning less than \$400,000 a year pays any more in taxes. Indeed, this is one of the biggest tax cuts that we are doing for regular people. Not like the tax cut they passed in 2017 which benefited only the wealthy and the corporations. This tax cut is a benefit to our working families, to our middle-class families.

The child tax credit is available to all now. Everybody who is receiving that \$300-per-child payment every month, that is going to continue because of the American Rescue Plan and because of Build Back Better. If anybody says it is going to add to the debt, know that they are not speaking the truth.

The other thing that Build Back Better does is it has the biggest impact on addressing and combating climate change in American history. Anybody who has lived through this summer, through last winter, the storms, the climate disasters knows that it is not a hoax, as some have argued.

Climate deniers have been proven wrong because we all witness what is happening with our climate. We all know that it will cost us billions and trillions of dollars if we do not act.

In my beautiful New Mexico, if we do not act to combat the climate crisis, we will become an extension of the Sonoran Desert. I love my mountain streams. I love the snowfall that falls on our ski resorts and in our mountains and trickles down to our rivers and provides us with the water we need for our farms and our fields and to quench our thirst.

I love that snow. If we do not address the climate crisis, we will not see that snow in winters to come. We might not see it this winter. So I am very pleased at the investments that we are making to combat the climate crisis in the Build Back Better Act.

The infrastructure bill also included some key provisions. It included provisions for my Orphaned Well Cleanup and Jobs Act to plug orphaned wells and protect our communities from the dangerous methane they spew into the air. We know that methane is many times, 35 times more dangerous to our climate than carbon, and so it is important to plug up those orphaned wells that oil and gas companies have abandoned. Not all of them, but there are too many that have abandoned those wells, and they are called orphaned. They are spewing methane into the air right now.

I visited one with our Labor Secretary. It was right next door to a school. The methane that leaks from that abandoned and dirty well is breathed into the lungs of our students. The infrastructure bill will help clean it up, but the Build Back Better bill will say we don't want this to happen over and over again.

Build Back Better says: You can't walk away, oil and gas companies, you can't walk away from those wells and leave the mess for the taxpayers to clean up.

We asked the Interior Department to strengthen the bonding requirements so that the bonds cover the cost of cleaning them up. We also establish an idled-well fee so that oil and gas companies don't have and don't let these wells just sit unattended. If you are not going to be pumping from the well, close it down. Don't just let it spew methane into the air.

I also helped secure \$240 million for a Just Transition investment fund to create new economic opportunities in our energy communities. New Mexico relies on oil and gas for jobs and tax revenues. I am acutely aware of the benefits that this industry has brought to our State, but I am also acutely aware of the need to transition in a way that honors our communities and our workers who have worked in this industry, who have fueled our economy.

We now need a transition to renewable energy and to a clean energy economy, but in that transition we cannot leave any worker behind. And so Build Back Better includes money to invest in those communities so we can see new businesses arise. It also includes money to invest in the workers so that if they need to gain new skills that we are there for them, that our community colleges are there for them, that our apprenticeships are there for them.

But many of the skills that we need, like cleaning up the orphaned wells, are the same skills that you would use in the industry itself. So we are going to be creating good-paying jobs, and we are making sure in the Build Back Better plan that those jobs are union, if they want to be. We are making sure that we prioritize the jobs that pay well and that treat their workers well.

We also are investing in a civilian climate corps. I am very proud to have had my first job in the conservation corps, the Youth Conservation Corps. It taught me that cleaning and protecting our environment is hard work. I went out there with my boots and my shovel and my pickaxe, and we helped create trails, and we helped clean up those trails. It taught me about work ethic, but it also taught me about the importance of caring for the land that we love.

The civilian climate corps will do the same, but it will grow it. I have met with those who are engaged, like the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. I give a shout-out to the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps because they are there managing our forests, working to protect our forests, and earning their degrees, starting new businesses coming from that experience in the climate corps, in the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps.

We are going to be investing in thousands and thousands of jobs for young people who will be able to go on and secure education, if that is what they

want, or start a business, if that is what they want, from the skills that they will have learned from the climate corps.

We also are going to be strengthening domestic manufacturing and the supply chains for critical goods because it is only when you address the root cause of the problems, which is our supply chains that you solve the problem.

We want to bring back manufacturing to this continent, to this country. There are those who talk about it the same way they talked for years about infrastructure week, but it doesn't help if all you do is talk about it. What you need to do is deliver. In the infrastructure plan, we are delivering to bring back the jobs that are needed to build those bridges. We are building that infrastructure.

We are delivering because Democrats deliver. In Build Back Better, we are going to be delivering the jobs of the future. We are going to be delivering the investments in manufacturing. We are going to be delivering the investments so our consumers can realize the benefits so that they are paid more and can really have the respect that comes along with a job that has the kind of benefits you need.

We are going to be delivering prescription drug price negotiation. We are going to be delivering the lowering of healthcare costs because for too long we have had those who would stand for Big Pharma instead of for those who need insulin, those who need Humira, those who need the kinds of drugs that make their life bearable, those who need the kinds of drugs that allow them to survive.

What we are doing in Build Back Better is making sure that we can negotiate to reduce those drug prices. That is something that we know Americans want. And so when we do not get a single Republican vote for lowering drug prices, remember that, that Republicans were unwilling to vote to lower drug prices because that is what this bill does.

Remember that Republicans were unwilling to vote for infrastructure, because that is what the infrastructure plan did.

I am asking, however, that we receive those votes, that we receive bipartisan support for the kinds of investments that we are going to be doing for our people.

I yield now to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), an amazing colleague in the Congressional Progressive Caucus, an amazing colleague from the Equality Caucus who has fought for the rights of all Americans. He has fought for the Equality Act. He is one of the drafters of the Equality Act.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak about the President's vision for really investing in working families in this country and doing it in a way, par-

ticularly after COVID, that the economy is rebuilt so that everyone has opportunities and that not only people at the top realize their full potential and reap all the benefits, but that everyone in this country can benefit from the economic recovery that the President has articulated in the Build Back Better plan.

I have been in Congress now 11 years. I don't know that we have ever had a better example of what leadership from the President means in terms of understanding that the best way to grow the economy is to invest in working families, to invest in middle-class families by making sure they can access all of the opportunities that exist in this country.

And what are those struggles? Affordable childcare, universal pre-K, job training, lowering prescription drug costs, lowering the cost of healthcare.

When the President made his address to the joint session of Congress, what struck me in that speech was that President Biden identified virtually every single struggle I hear about from my constituents in Rhode Island—the high cost of prescription drugs, the high cost of healthcare, the high cost of childcare, the inability to access pre-K, difficulty retraining because of the absence of job training programs. It is as if the President put together everything I have heard that folks struggle with every day in this country, and he drafted and included all those in the Build Back Better provisions.

When you take the bipartisan infrastructure bill along with the Build Back Better legislation which we are about to pass, we are going to create 1½ million jobs a year for a decade, and that is extraordinary. These are good-paying, union jobs.

We are going to, for the first time, take on in a serious way the climate crisis. We are going to drive down costs of everything from prescription drugs to childcare to healthcare, and the best part about it is it is paid for by making sure the wealthiest people in this country and the most profitable corporations pay their fair share. My constituents pay their fair share. They expect everyone to do the same.

And so we have this extraordinary investment in working families that is going to give people an opportunity, move so many of the obstacles that allow folks to return to the workforce, particularly women. Women were devastated by the pandemic, particularly devastated.

□ 1830

If we did the bipartisan infrastructure bill alone, a lot of that economic recovery would escape women in this country. The Build Back Better provisions are going to ensure many of those obstacles that prevent women from reentering the workforce are addressed so that our economy can realize the full benefit of the extraordinary talent of women in the workforce.

This economic recovery that we are all craving after 2 years of a very difficult time with this pandemic, that economic recovery is going to reach everyone in this country. It is going to begin with working families and middle-class families, who for the first time, I think, are going to be the focus of a very comprehensive strategy.

I am excited. I feel particularly honored to be in Congress at this moment, and I thank the President for his leadership in developing a plan to rebuild the middle class and address so many of the challenges that working families face.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak during this Special Order hour, and I look forward to the passage of Build Back Better and all it is going to mean for families in my State and all across this country.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I do love it when this President always says we are going to rebuild this economy from the bottom up and the middle out because that is exactly who he is focused on. He is focused on giving us the opportunities, my constituents as well.

You know, there could not be two States that are more different than Rhode Island and New Mexico, but these are the same things we hear in New Mexico. We are addressing those in Build Back Better, and I can't be more excited as a freshman to be able to be here on the floor of the House and to vote for the American Rescue Plan because that really was the first step.

The American Rescue Plan saved our economy. It saved families from homelessness. It lowered hunger. It addressed the pandemic by giving us the vaccine.

The second step was the infrastructure bill. We talked earlier about how, last Thanksgiving, we were apart. This Thanksgiving, we are together because of the American Rescue Plan.

But the infrastructure bill, that is about repairing our infrastructure, which has been too long ignored.

Then this last one, Build Back Better, I am just overjoyed that I get to serve in Congress in this historic moment to work on these things that will be benefiting my grandchildren and their grandchildren. I want to leave them with this beautiful place we call home intact.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

VACCINE MANDATES NEED TO STOP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that each Member have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?